— Ensuring proper linkages of raw materials, energy and other utility services with competitive pricing and also expeditious clearance from environmental and other angles.

— facilitating proper infrastructural arrangements for road, railway and sea transport at reasonable prices.

— Introduction of a basket of fiscal incentives to facilitate rapid growth of the industry on the lines adopted by countries like Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

— Special thrust on R&D investment with emphasis on futuristic technologies.

— Concomitant institutional reform with special emphasis on restructuring and reorganisation of public sector enterprises, so as to provide for requisite functional autonomy.

Setting Up Steel Industry In Punjab

1664. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up Steel Industry in Public and Private Sectors in the state of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) Central Government do not propose to set up a steel plant in the public sector in the State of Punjab. Under the new Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, no Government approval is required for the establishment of steel plants in the private sectors except for locations within 25 kms. from the periphery of standard urban area limits of a city having a population of more than ten lakhs as per 1991 census.

Modernisation Of Furnace Industry

1665. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Furnace Industry needs tremendous improvement in technology in view of expansion and massive modernisation of a number of steel plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the proposals for bringing advanced technology for improving quality and reliability of its products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) There is scope for technological upgradation in Indian Electric Arc Furnaces used for steel making since many of the existing furnaces are of small size and are not energy efficient. Use of various technological measures such as ultra high powered AC/DC Furnaces, oxy fuel burners, scrap pre-heater, water-cooled panels, etc. will help the industry to achieve higher productivity and energy efficiency.

(c) The Government has already liberalised the policy for import of advanced technology. Steel is included in the list of high priority industries for which there is a provision for automatic approval of import of technology upto a specified monetary limit. Import of drawings and designs is also allowed without any restriction.

Mining At Kiri Booth

1666. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar had recently issued notice to the Steel Authority of India Limited to stop mining at Kiri Booth, Western Singhbhum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Chaibasa, District Singhbhum West, Government of Bihar issued a notice dated 29-3-1993 to SAIL, to close down the activities at Kiriburu/Meghahatuburu Iron Ore Mines of Steel Authority of India Limited for non-renewal of 1936.10 hectares of mining lease in pursuance of which the Mine authorities had to close down operations at Kiriburu/Meghahatuburu mines from 2 p.m. on 1-4-1993. Later on the intervention of the State Government the operations at Kiriburu/Meghahatuburu (Mines) was resumed at 6 p.m. on 2-4-1993.